

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 12, 13 and 15-22 remain pending in this application.

Rejection of claims 1-5, 12-13, and 15-22 under 35 USC § 103(a)

Claims 1-5, 12, 13 and 15-22 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watkins (US 7,111,319, hereinafter Watkins) in view of Logan et al. (US 5,371,551, hereinafter Logan) and Iwasaki (US 6,154,604, hereinafter Iwasaki).

Independent claim 1 provides a video apparatus. The video apparatus includes a digital decoder which decompresses compressed digital data and generates a first digital stream, a video source of a first analogue signal and a video encoder. A first video decoder connectable to the video source generates a second digital stream based on the first analogue signal. Mixing means coupled to the first video decoder and to the digital decoder is able to mix the second digital stream and the first digital stream into an output digital stream to the video encoder. The first video decoder provides a synchronizing signal to the digital decoder.

Watkins describes an apparatus that comprises an audio/video decoder and a storage device, for implementing a set top box. The audio/video decoder receives one or more uncompressed audio signals and one or more compressed video and/or audio signals. The uncompressed audio signals may be tagged to the compressed signals, and any of the uncompressed audio signals and the tagged compressed signals may be stored on the storage device to be made available for playback relative to the tags (Watkins col. 1, lines 28 – 37).

The Office Action concedes that Watkins fails to disclose or suggest “a video source of a first analogue signal” as recited in claim 1 of the present arrangement. It is further conceded in the Office action that Watkins fails to disclose or suggest “the first video decoder provides a synchronizing signal to the digital decoder” as recited in claim 1 of the present arrangement.

Logan is cited to disclose a video source of an analogue signal (see Figure 2; and column 4, lines 19-22). It is then asserted in the Office Action that it would be obvious to combine Watkins and Logan. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Logan describes a time delayed digital video system using concurrent recording and playback. Logan is related to an arrangement for monitoring programming as it is broadcast and for enabling the listener or viewer to pause, replay and fast-forward the broadcast programming. In combining Watkins and Logan as suggested in the Office Action, the tuner 138b in Figure 1 of Watkins would be replaced by the analog tuner of Logan which provides the analog signal. Applicant respectfully submits that this would not produce an operable device. In Watkins, the input signal is provided from the tuner through a channel decoder and then to a demux 162 within a processor 102. Thus, by replacing the tuner of Watkins with the analog tuner of Logan, the first video decoder would require that the first video signal is analogue to digital converted and the digitized signal would be multiplexed prior to being provided to being demultiplexed in demux 162 of processor 102b. These necessary additional steps to achieve the present claimed invention are neither disclosed nor suggested in either Watkins or Logan. Therefore, it is not possible to simply replace the tuner of Watkins with the analog tuner of Logan.

Further, as admitted in the Office Action, both Watkins and Logan fail to disclose or suggest the claimed "video decoder provides a synchronizing signal to the digital decoder." The Office Action asserts this feature is taught by Iwasaki. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Iwasaki teaches a synchronizing signal generator 3d for providing synchronizing signal S2 to MPEG decoder 3b and video encoder 3c. Contrary to the assertions in the Office Action, Iwasaki does not show or suggest a video decoder that generates a synchronizing signal. Instead, Iwasaki shows a synchronizing signal generator that generates the synchronizing signal. Iwasaki also neither discloses nor suggests that a digital decoder receives a synchronizing signal from a video decoder. Instead, Iwasaki shows that the synchronizing signal is received from a synchronizing signal generator. Iwasaki only shows a single decoder. There is not even a suggestion in Iwasaki of a first video decoder that provides a synchronizing signal to a further decoder, namely a digital decoder. Thus,

Iwasaki, similarly to Watkins and Logan, neither disclose nor suggest “the video decoder provides a synchronizing signal to the digital decoder.” As recited in claim 1 of the present claimed arrangement.

As Watkins, Logan and Iwasaki neither disclose nor suggest “a video source of a first analogue signal” or “the video decoder provides a synchronizing signal to the digital decoder” as recited in claim 1 of the present arrangement, the combination of Watkins, Logan and Iwasaki cannot disclose these features. It is thus respectfully submitted that in view of the above remarks, claim 1 is patentable over Watkins, Logan and Iwasaki when taken alone or in any combination. It is further respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 2-5, 12 and 13 are dependent on claim 1 and thus are patentable for the same reasons as claim 1.

Independent claim 15 includes features similar to claim 1 discussed above and thus is patentable for the same reasons as claim 1. Claims 16-22 are dependent on claim 15 and are considered patentable for the same reasons as claim 15. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 16-22 is satisfied and should be withdrawn.

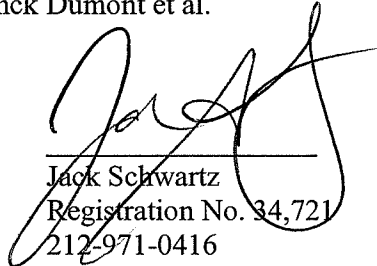
In view of the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present claimed invention is patentable over Watkins, Logan and Iwasaki when taken alone or in any combination. Consequently, withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-5, 12-13, and 15-22 is respectfully requested.

Having thus fully addressed the Examiner’s rejections, it is believed that, in view of the above remarks, the application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly, then, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicant’s attorney at the phone number below, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled.

No fee is believed due with this response. However if a fee is due, please charge such fee against Deposit Account 07-0832

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